

palatable to the public if we took other actions in other areas. But also just in light of the fact that if we do pass this bill, as the committee has amended it, we would have shorter sessions. And I'm concerned about the fact that if we continue to introduce as many bills as we do, and incidentally I should say this may be a case of do what I say and not what I do because I have to freely admit sometimes I introduce more than 12 bills in a session. But if we do get into those shorter sessions and we do have more bills, I think it becomes...or the same amount of bills, I think it becomes problematic for the committees to deal with and for us to deal with on the floor of the Legislature. You know we're really fortunate in Nebraska that we, that our Legislature doesn't operate like a lot of other states where they don't even have hearings on a lot of these bills. I know Iowa is a very good example where committee chairs may only designate two or three bills a year for a public hearing. And the rest of them don't get public hearings at all. And there are other states where committee chairs or the speaker, whomever, can just more or less trash bills that never see the light of day. So I think we're fortunate in that respect that we do have a very open system and that all of our bills do get hearings. But based on the comments that I've heard this morning I will pull this amendment with the thought that if shorter sessions are adopted we will see how the system works. We will hope that maybe, as Senator Robinson suggested to me a few minutes ago, maybe there would be more restraint on the part of the senators because they do realize it's a shorter session and they would focus themselves a little bit better. But it's an issue that I think we should think about, and I'm glad that we've had the chance to discuss it for a brief period of time this morning. But now I guess I would like to move on to the other two issues, the shorter session and the December start, both of which I think are very good ideas. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. The amendment is withdrawn, Senator Schimek? Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the proposed constitutional amendment is by Senator Wesely. Senator, your amendment is on page 201.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the